No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

Ford

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

~~SECRET/EYES ONLY~~
ATTACHMENTS

May 30, 1975

Dear Mr. Belin:

I have your letter of May 22 renewing your request for access to "all minutes of meetings of the National Security Council, the Special Group (Augmented) and the predecessors of the Forty Committee which in any manner whatsoever relate to any discussions of plans involving the assassination of Premier Castro of Cuba or Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic."

As you know, in response to your original request of April 17, we conducted a thorough review of the records of the National Security Council on Cuba and the Dominican Republic for the period you specified, 1960-64. On May 9, 1975, we sent you copies of items which, however remotely, dealt with domestic intelligence or assassination. In my letter of May 9 transmitting this material, I informed you that the question of access to pertinent material from the records of the Special Group and Special Group (Augmented) was still under review.

We have now completed a review of that material, and of records of the predecessor groups of the Forty Committee, and have identified certain items relating to assassination. A list of those items is attached and copies are enclosed. We are continuing our review of this sensitive material to be sure that nothing has been overlooked.

We have noted a recent Associated Press news story to the effect that the Commission has a copy of the minutes of an August 10, 1962 meeting and a subsequent memorandum written by Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale pertaining to the possible assassination of Premier Castro. We have examined the official minutes of this meeting available in the NSC files and find no reference in those minutes to assassination. It is possible, of course, that other memoranda were prepared concerning the meeting of which we are unaware. We have no copy of a memorandum from General Lansdale such as that described.

FBI, NSS, Review Completed

~~SECRET/EYES ONLY~~
ATTACHMENTS (XGDS)

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

I regret that it will not be possible to grant your request for unlimited personal access to the minutes of the meetings of the NSC or of the special groups. In most cases, the records of these meetings covered several topics completely unrelated to the concerns of the Rockefeller Commission. With regard to the NSC itself, the records of many meetings were kept in the form of Records of Actions rather than minutes. These Records of Action, likewise, may cover many different topics for any one NSC meeting--topics which are unrelated to the Commission's activities. The discussion of these issues, many of which remain extremely sensitive, requires continued protection and must be handled on a need-to-know basis. Since the material is unrelated to the work of the Commission, I am sure you will understand why we do not believe we can expose this information, where no such need-to-know exists.

If you have any further questions concerning the review of these files for material of concern to the Commission, you may wish to discuss the matter with Mr. Roderick Hills of the Office of the White House Counsel.

I assure you that we are reviewing the records available to the NSC very carefully in order to provide you with all information on assassination, no matter how indirect, contained therein. In addition, as you know, in a series of letters dated May 21 to officials of the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Libraries, in response to your request, we have authorized access for you or your representative to materials in those Libraries on Cuba and the Dominican Republic for the 1959-64 period which pertain in any way to domestic intelligence activities by the CIA or to assassination.

I trust that the material we are providing from the NSC files and the access to material in the Presidential Libraries for which we have arranged will provide you with the resources necessary to complete the important work of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary

Mr. David W. Belin
Executive Director

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

SECRET/EYES ONLY

LIST OF ENCLOSURES

1. Excerpt from Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 3 November 1960.

2. Excerpt from Memorandum from Peter Jessup to Mr. Bundy, 18 June 1964, Subj: "303 Committee Cuban Review".

   (We understand that the memorandum referred to in paragraph 6 (b) of this memorandum has already been made available to the Commission by CIA. It is not included with the copy in the NSC files.)

3. Excerpt from Memorandum for the Record, 22 June 1964: SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 18 June 1964.

25X1

4. Excerpt from Memorandum for the Record, 22 June 1964: SUBJECT: Preliminary Meeting with Attorney General, 19 June 1964.

   (The paragraph 7 referred to is that contained in Item 3. The memorandum to the DCI referred to in paragraph 3 is believed to be the one referred to in Item 2.)

5. Excerpt from Memorandum for the Record, 31 July 1964: SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 30 July 1964.

6. Memorandum from DCI McCone to McGeorge Bundy, 19 August 1964, Subj: Status of FBI Investigation re Plans by Cuban Exiles to Assassinate Cuban Government Leaders"

   (The report referred to in paragraph 3 is, we believe, the memorandum referred to in Item 2.)

SECRET/EYES ONLY (XGDS

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRET EYES ONLY
ATTACHMENTS

May 29, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RODERICK HILLS

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis

SUBJECT: Redraft of Letter to David Belin

Pursuant to Brent Scowcroft's instructions and my subsequent coversation with you, I have revised my proposed letter to David Belin forwarding the additional material on Cuba. I have been slightly less categorical in referring to "all" the material in the event the Counsel's office identifies additional material which you recommend be provided to the Commission.

I would appreciate your clearance and/or comments on the attached text.

Attachment

SECRET/EYES ONLY
ATTACHMENTS (XGDS)

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

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25X1

SECRET

PASS PRESIDENT'S PARTY

FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: JEANNE W. DAVIS NSC

SUBJECT: REDRAFT OF LETTER TO BELIN

1. Following your instructions and subsequent conversation with Rod Hills, we have redrafted the letter to David Belin enclosing the Special Group material on Cuba to include a reference to the Office of the Counsel. Hills preferred that we refer Belin to him for questions rather than state directly in the letter that the Counsel's Office was personally reviewing the material.

2. We have also been slightly less categorical in referring to "all" the material in the event the review by the Counsel's office identifies additional material they believe should be forwarded.

3. The text of the redraft follows, for your approval:

SECRET (XGDS)

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

SECRET
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Summary from Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 3 November 1960.

This meeting was a review of the concept of U.S. efforts against Castro.

Mr. Livingston T. Merchant, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, and the Department of State's representative on the Special Group asked whether any planning had been done for taking "direct positive action against Fidel, Raul /Castro/ and Che Guevara" asserting that the Cuban Government "would be leaderless and probably brainless" without these three leaders against whom action would necessarily need to be taken simultaneously.

General Charles Cabell, Deputy Director of CIA, who was representing the Agency at the meeting in the absence of the Director, said the action proposed by Mr. Merchant was "undertain of results and highly dangerous in conception and execution" and, particularly because of the necessity of simultaneous action, "it would have to be concluded that Mr. Merchant's suggestion is beyond our capabilities."

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

3 November 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 3 November 1960

PRESENT: Messrs. Merchant, Douglas, Gray, Gen. Cabell, Gen. Lansdale

1. Cuba

Mr. Gray inquired once more as to the status of planning for problems which would arise post-Castro. Mr. Merchant said he would check into the progress of the State Department group which has been charged with developing recommendations on this matter.

From this the Group launched into a far-ranging discussion of the entire concept of U.S. efforts against Castro. Mr. Douglas, supported by Mr. Gray and Mr. Merchant, expounded the idea that perhaps things have now progressed to a point where covert activities of the type originally envisaged for CIA to undertake will not be effective. Mr. Douglas referred to the extensive program of the militia, Mr. Gray cited the matter of arms from the Soviet bloc, and Mr. Merchant dwelt on the increasing effectiveness of Castro's measures to control the population in ways which the Communists have developed so well. The latter said that he and others in the State Department had originally thought that a popular rebellion would develop within Cuba and that this could be augmented by the comparatively small-scale efforts of exiles under CIA control. Now the same people are beginning to feel more and more that despite the numerous defections and the economic deprivations being experienced by the middle and upper classes, time is actually working on Castro's side. Mr. Merchant said that he foresaw that there would occur a point in time beyond which covert intervention would not do the job.

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Finally, Mr. Merchant asked whether any real planning has been done for taking direct positive action against Fidel, Raul and Che Guevara. He said that without these three the Cuban Government would be leaderless and probably brainless. He conceded that it would be necessary to act against all three simultaneously. Gen. Cabell pointed out that action of this kind is uncertain of results and highly dangerous in conception and execution, because the instruments must be Cubans. He felt that, particularly because of the necessity of simultaneous action, it would have to be concluded that Mr. Merchant's suggestion is beyond our capabilities.

/ - — ... —

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SECRET
EYES ONLY

18 June 1964

MEMO FOR MR BUNDY:

SUBJ: 303 COMMITTEE CUBAN REVIEW

1. It seems to me that this meeting might serve to give us a clearer picture of what forces are at work today which might serve to embarrass the USA in the next 120 days.

3. There are other groups of adventureres and freebooters who have an unknown capability for trouble. How close track is the FBI et al keeping track of Frank Fiorini and persons of this ilk.

4. We also have these reports of MAFIA plans to perform coup de main operations for cash. Who is keeping track of this? Does the grapevine among the emigres keep us well advised of all impending adventures?

5. Apparently the FBI, Customs, CIA, FAA, INS ,all keep track at one time or another of Cuban matters as they affect these agencies with all the attending difficulties of coordination. There must be a certain amount of porousness in such a diversified bureaucracy.

6. Pertinent to this discussion are the following papers attached:

25X1

PETER JESSUP

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

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SECRET
EYES ONLY

OK
3/4/

22 June 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 18 June 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Bundy, Mr. McCone, Mr. Vance, Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Mann and Mr. FitzGerald were also present.

A general discussion was held on problems arising from increased activities on the part of organized Cuban emigre groups, independent adventurers, purported plots to assassinate Castro and the general edginess and instability on the island.

None of those present appeared to feel that it was either realistic or practical to sever connections with or to withdraw support from the two principal emigre organizations, those of Artime and Ray.

SECRET

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A paper was discussed on alleged plans which involve the underworld to assassinate certain Cuban leaders. Mr. McCone was somewhat skeptical of the reported plots and stated that he would like to go into the matter further. Others, including Mr. Bundy, felt that the United States was being put on notice and should do everything in its power to ascertain promptly the veracity of the reports and then undertake prevention. It was decided that Mr. Bundy would call the matter to the Attorney General's attention as a matter of law enforcement.

Peter Jessup

Distribution:
Mr. Johnson
Mr. Vance
Mr. McCone

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14823

22 June 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Preliminary Meeting with Attorney General, 19 June 1964

REFERENCE: Minutes of Meeting of 303 Committee of 18 June 1964 on overall subject of Cuba.

1. In accordance with the decisions made in paragraphs 4 and 7 of reference minutes, the undersigned, at the direction of Mr. Bundy, met with the Attorney General for what he called a preliminary meeting.

[redacted] 25X1

Peter Jessup

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

EYES ONLY

31 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 30 July 1964

PRESENT: Mr. Bundy, Mr. Thomas L. Hughes, Mr. Vance, and Mr. McCone.

Mr. Desmond FitzGerald was present for Item 1.
Colonel Ralph D. Steakley was present for Item 3.

1. Cuba

[redacted] 25X1

Mr. FitzGerald then addressed himself once more to the ever present problem of operations by autonomous groups. While under our cognizance, they are not controlled, he said. 25X1

It was agreed that Mr. FitzGerald would contact Mr. Sam Papich of the FBI in regard to the earlier report of an alleged plot with Mafia overtones to assassinate Castro and which the Attorney General agreed to handle as a matter of law enforcement.

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

19 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President for
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: Status of FBI Investigation re Plans by Cuban Exiles to Assassinate Cuban Government Leaders

1. This memorandum is for your information in response to a 303 Committee query of 30 July 1964 regarding the status of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation of reported plans by Cuban exiles to assassinate Cuban government leaders.

2. The following is a summary of the investigation to date.

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] the Federal Bureau of Investigation has interviewed all of the people involved in the plot except Byron Cameron. Cameron is now in Mexico on a business trip; he may possibly return to Miami on 7 August at which time the FBI plans to interview him regarding the plan. The FBI has not decided if it will re-interview all of the people involved in the plan. 25X1 25X1 25X1

[redacted] as a result of its investigation, has disseminated a total of seven (7) reports regarding this matter. A summary of these reports follow: 25X1

a. Teofilo Babun Selman specifically denied to the FBI that he had any involvement in, or knowledge of, any plan to assassinate selected Cuban government officials. He admitted contact with Julio Lobo Olavarria, but denied discussing the plan with him and stated that Eduardo Garcia Molina was present during the meeting with Lobo and that Garcia could verify his statements.

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b. Eduardo Garcia Molina advised the FBI that he knew of the plan and that he was present when Babun discussed it with Lobo.

c. Julio Lobo Olavarria advised the FBI that Babun had told him of the plan and of Byron Cameron. Babun had asked him to contribute funds for the plan and he tentatively agreed to furnish funds, but later declined. Lobo also told the FBI that he had discussed the plan with CIA.

d. Jose M. "Pepin" Bosch informed the FBI that he had heard of the plan in general terms and that he had reported it to the CIA. He denied that he had agreed to furnish funds for the plan.

e. Eliseo Gomez Fernandez informed the FBI that he had no knowledge of the plan.

f. Ceferino Oscar Fernandez Veiga informed the FBI that he had no knowledge of the plan.

g. Major John Doherty of the St. Louis, Missouri, City Police Department advised the FBI that he is now in charge of the Field Operations Division of the St. Louis Police Department and formerly was connected with the Vice Squad of this department. Doherty stated that he had no idea as to who would be involved with the Mafia and who would be in a position to participate in plans to carry out executions of Cuban government officials.

h. All other people interviewed by the FBI denied knowledge of the plan.

JOHN A. McCONE
Director

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Date: 5/27

TO: Mr. Ratliff

For clearance and/or comments
and return to me. AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary
(Ext. 3440-1)

Attachment

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

3548X

ACTION

SECRET/EYES ONLY ATTACHMENTS

May 27, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis JWD

SUBJECT: Reply to Renewed Rockefeller Commission Staff Request for Access to NSC Minutes

In a letter of May 22 (Tab B), David Belin has renewed his request for "access to all minutes of meetings of the National Security Council, the Special Group, the Special Group (Augmented), and the predecessors of the Forty Committee which in any manner whatsoever relate to any discussions of plans involving the assassination of Premier Castro of Cuba or Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic."

In consultation with Rob Roy Ratliff, I have prepared the proposed reply to Belin at Tab A, which provides him with copies of the material Rob Roy has identified as pertinent from the files of the special groups but reaffirms our denial of his request for access to the files themselves. As a small insurance policy against Rob Roy's turning up anything more in his files, we have told Belin we are continuing our review of the material to be sure nothing has been overlooked.

In addition, we have noted a recent AP story (Tab C), apparently from Commission sources, which describes the minutes of an August 10, 1962 meeting and a subsequent memo written by General Lansdale pertaining to the possible assassination of Castro. The official minutes of this meeting in Rob Roy's files do not refer to assassination in any way, although there is a reference to a CIA "variant" plan which is not described. We do not have a copy of the Lansdale memorandum. We have included the reference both as a indirect reminder of our concern over press leaks and also to reassure Belin that we have reviewed the specific document and have found it to contain nothing referring to assassination.

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No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

An alternative to the provision of the special material to Belin would be to provide the material directly to the Vice President and for me to inform Belin that we have done so. Although this is tempting, given the insulting implications of Belin's letter, I believe it would unduly exacerbate our relations with Belin and that the material would probably be turned over to him in any event.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the proposed letter at Tab A.

Approved_____ As amended_____

Alternatively

That the material be made available to the Vice President and my letter be revised accordingly.

Approve_____

Concurrence: Rob Roy Ratliff
William Casselman

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SECRET/EYES ONLY
ATTACHMENTS

Dear Mr. Belin:

I have your letter of May 22 renewing your request for access to "all minutes of meetings of the National Security Council, the Special Group (Augmented) and the predecessors of the Forty Committee which in any manner whatsoever relate to any discussions of plans involving the assassination of Premier Castro of Cuba or Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic."

As you know, in response to your original request of April 17, we conducted a thorough review of the records of the National Security Council on Cuba and the Dominican Republic for the period you specified, 1960-64. On May 9, 1975, we sent you copies of all items which, however remotely, dealt with domestic intelligence or assassination. In my letter of May 9 transmitting this material, I informed you that the question of access to pertinent material from the records of the Special Group and Special Group (Augmented) was still under review.

We have now completed a review of that material, and of records of the predecessor groups of the Forty Committee, and have identified certain items relating to assassination. A list of those items is attached and copies are enclosed. We are continuing our review of this sensitive material to be sure that nothing has been overlooked.

We have noted a recent Associated Press news story to the effect that the Commission has a copy of the minutes of an August 10, 1962 meeting and a subsequent memorandum written by Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale pertaining to the possible assassination of Premier Castro. We have examined the official minutes of this

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ATTACHMENTS (XGDS)

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

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meeting available in the NSC files and find no reference in those minutes to assassination. We have no copy of a memorandum from General Lansdale such as that described.

I regret that it will not be possible to grant your request for unlimited personal access to the minutes of the meetings of the NSC or of the special groups. In most cases, the records of these meetings covered several topics completely unrelated to the concerns of the Rockefeller Commission. With regard to the NSC itself, the records of many meetings were kept in the form of Records of Actions rather than minutes. These Records of Action, likewise, may cover many different topics for any one NSC meeting--topics which are unrelated to the Commission's activities. The discussion of these issues, many of which remain extremely sensitive, requires continued protection and must be handled on a need-to-know basis. Since the material is unrelated to the work of the Commission, I am sure you will understand why we do not believe we can expose this information, where no such need-to-know exists.

I assure you that we have reviewed the records available to the NSC very carefully and have provided you with all information on assassination, no matter how indirect, contained therein. In addition, as you know, in a series of letters dated May 21 to officials of the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Libraries, in response to your request, we have authorized access for you or your representative to materials in those Libraries on Cuba and the Dominican Republic for the 1959-64 period which pertain in any way to domestic intelligence activities by the CIA or to assassination.

I trust that the material we have provided from the NSC files and the access to material in the Presidential Libraries for which we have arranged will provide you with the resources necessary to complete the important work of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary

Mr. David W. Belin
Executive Director
Commission on CIA Activities
Within the United States
Washington, D. C. 20500

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

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3548

COMMISSION ON CIA ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE UNITED STATES
Washington, DC 20500

Nelson A. Rockefeller,
Chairman

John T. Connor
C. Douglas Dillon
Erwin N. Griswold
Lane Kirkland
Lyman L. Lemnitzer
Ronald Reagan
Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.

David W. Belin,
Executive Director

May 22, 1975

Mrs. Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary
National Security Council
Washington, D.C. 20506

Dear Mrs. Davis:

We have previously requested that the National Security Council give us access to all minutes of meetings of the National Security Council, the Special Group, the Special Group (Augmented), and the predecessors of the Forty Committee which in any manner whatsoever relate to any discussions of plans involving the assassination of Premier Castro of Cuba or Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic. We have received certain documents from you, but we do not believe these are necessarily complete and cannot be sure unless we, ourselves, have access to these files.

I requested such access weeks ago, and you advised me that this request was denied. I would like to renew this request and ask that the access be provided no later than May 28, 1975, since, as you know, the deadline for the submission of the report of this Commission is on June 6, 1975.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Belin
Executive Director

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

'Elimination' of Castro Held Discussed in '62

Associated Press

The Rockefeller commission has obtained minutes of a 1962 meeting showing that high Kennedy administration officials discussed the possible assassination of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, according to sources.

One source who has seen the minutes said the subject was immediately dismissed. But two sources say a memo was written two days later by an assistant to then-Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara directing the Central Intelligence Agency to develop contingency plans for the possible assassination of the Cuban leader.

That memo was withdrawn immediately, one source said. But he said subsequent U.S.-sponsored plots were made against Castro's life.

The memo, which dealt with a variety of subjects, does not use the word "assassination," according to a source who had seen it, relying instead on more general terms such as "elimination."

But the source said the memo clearly provided authority for drawing up contingency plans for an assassination.

The sources, who declined to be identified, said minutes of the Aug. 10, 1962, meeting show it was attended by McNamara, Secretary of State Dean Rusk; John A. McCone, CIA director, and McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's adviser for national security affairs.

The memo was written by McNamara assistant Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale.

Reached by phone, McNamara and Lansdale said they had no recollection of the memo or the meeting.

The minutes describe a meeting of a special group known as Operation Mongoose, which approved all CIA covert activities against the Castro regime, the source said. A fifth member, then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, was absent, according to the sources.

THE WASHINGTON POST, 24 May 1975

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No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

SECRET/EYES ONLY
ATTACHMENTS

Dear Mr. Belin:

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As you know, in response to your original request of April 17, we conducted a thorough review of the records of the National Security Council on Cuba and the Dominican Republic for the period you specified, 1960-64. On May 9, 1975, we sent you copies of [redacted] items which, however remotely, dealt with domestic intelligence or assassination. In my letter of May 9 transmitting this material, I informed you that the question of access to pertinent material from the records of the Special Group and Special Group (Augmented) was still under review.

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ATTACHMENTS (XGDS)

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No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

SECRET/EYES ONLY
ATTACHMENTS

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I assure you that we ~~have reviewed~~ are reviewing the records available to the NSC very carefully ~~and have~~ will provided you with all information on assassination, no matter how indirect, contained therein. In addition, as you know, in a series of letters dated May 21 to officials of the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Libraries, in response to your request, we have authorized access for you or your representative to materials in those Libraries on Cuba and the Dominican Republic for the 1959-64 period which pertain in any way to domestic intelligence activities by the CIA or to assassination.

I trust that the material we ~~have provided~~ are providing from the NSC files and the access to material in the Presidential Libraries for which we have arranged will provide you with the resources necessary to complete the important ~~work of the~~ Commission.

Sincerely,

Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary

Mr. David W. Belin
Executive Director
Commission on CIA Activities
Within the United States
Washington, D. C. 20500

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/04/23 : LOC-HAK-455-7-5-4

SECRET/EYES ONLY

LIST OF ENCLOSURES

Excerpt from Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 3 November 1960

1. ~~Summary from Minutes of Special Group Meeting, 3 November 1960~~

~~(The full minutes of this meeting are not in the NSC files.)~~

2. Excerpt from Memorandum from Peter Jessup to Mr. Bundy, 18 June 1964, Subj: "303 Committee Cuban Review".

(The memorandum referred to in paragraph 6 (b) of this memorandum is not included with the copy in the NSC files.)

3. Excerpt from Memorandum for the Record, 22 June 1964: SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 18 June 1964

[redacted] 25X1

4. Excerpt from Memorandum for the Record, 22 June 1964: SUBJECT: Preliminary Meeting with Attorney General, 19 June 1964.

(The paragraph 7 referred to is that contained in Item 3. The memorandum to the DCI referred to in paragraph 3 is believed to be the one referred to in Item 2.)

5. Excerpt from Memorandum for the Record, 31 July 1964: SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the 303 Committee, 30 July 1964.

6. Memorandum from DCI McCone to McGeorge Bundy, 19 August 1964, Subj: Status of FBI Investigation re Plans by Cuban Exiles to Assassinate Cuban Government Leaders"

(The report referred to in paragraph 3 is, we believe, the memorandum referred to in Item 2.)

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3548X

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: Jeanne W. Davis

SUBJECT: Reply to Renewed Rockefeller Commission Staff Request for Access to NSC Minutes

In a letter of May 22 (Tab B), David Belin has renewed his request for "access to all minutes of meetings of the National Security Council, the Special Group, the Special Group (Augmented), and the predecessors of the Forty Committee which in any manner whatsoever relate to any discussions of plans involving the assassination of Premier Castro of Cuba or Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic."

In consultation with Rob Roy Ratliff, I have prepared the proposed reply to Belin at Tab A, which provides him with copies of the material Rob Roy has identified as pertinent from the files of the special groups but reaffirms our denial of his request for access to the files themselves. As a small insurance policy against Rob Roy's turning up anything more in his files, we have told Belin we are continuing our review of the material to be sure nothing has been overlooked.

In addition, we have noted a recent AP story (Tab C), apparently from Commission sources, which describes the minutes of an August 10, 1962 meeting and a subsequent memo written by General Lansdale pertaining to the possible assassination of Castro. The official minutes of this meeting in Rob Roy's files do not refer to assassination in any way, although there

(continued)

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is a reference to a CIA "variant" plan which is not described. We do not have a copy of the Lansdale memorandum. We have included the reference both as a indirect reminder of our concern over press leaks and also to reassure Belin that we have reviewed the specific document and have found it to contain nothing referring to assassination.

An alternative to the provision of the special material to Belin would be to provide the material directly to the Vice President and for me to inform Belin that we have done so. Although this is tempting, given the insulting implications of Belin's letter, I believe it would unduly exacerbate our relations with Belin and that the material would probably be turned over to him in any event.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the proposed letter at Tab A.

Approved_____ As amended_____

Alternatively,

1) That the material be made available to the Vice President and my letter be revised accordingly.

Approve_____

Concurrence: Rob Roy Ratliff
William Casselman

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Dear Mr. Belin:

I have your letter of May 22 renewing your request for access to "all minutes of meetings of the National Security Council, the Special Group (Augmented) and the predecessors of the Forty Committee which in any manner whatsoever relate to any discussions of plans involving the assassination of Premier Castro of Cuba or Generalissimo Trujillo of the Dominican Republic."

As you know, in response to your original request of April 17, we conducted a thorough review of the records of the National Security Council on Cuba and the Dominican Republic for the period you specified, 1960-64. On May 9, 1975, we sent you copies of all items which, however remotely, dealt with domestic intelligence or assassination. In my letter of May 9 transmitting this material, I informed you that the question of access to pertinent material from the records of the Special Group and Special Group (Augmented) was still under review.

We have now completed a review of that material, and of records of the predecessor groups of the Forty Committee, and have identified certain items relating to assassination. A list of those items is attached and copies are enclosed. We are continuing our review of this sensitive material to be sure that nothing has been overlooked.

We have noted a recent Associated Press news story to the effect that the Commission has a copy of the minutes of an August 10, 1962 meeting

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and a subsequent memorandum written by Maj. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale pertaining to the possible assassination of Premier Castro. We have examined the official minutes of this meeting available in the NSC files and find no reference in those minutes to assassination. We have no copy of a memorandum from General Lansdale such as that described.

I regret that it will not be possible to grant your request for unlimited personal access to the minutes of the meetings of the NSC or of the special groups. In most cases, the records of these meetings covered several topics completely unrelated to the concerns of the Rockefeller Commission. With regard to the NSC itself, the records of many meetings were kept in the form of Records of Actions rather than minutes. These Records of Action, likewise, may cover many different topics for any one NSC meeting--topics which are unrelated to the Commissions activities. The discussion of these issues, many of which remain extremely sensitive, requires continued protection and must be handled on a need-to-know basis. Since the material is unrelated to the work of the Commission, I am sure you will understand why we do not believe we can expose this information, where no such need-to-know exists.

I assure you that we have reviewed the records available to the NSC very carefully and have provided you with all information on assassination, no matter how indirect, contained therein. In addition, as you know, in a series of letters dated May 21 to officials of the Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson Libraries, in response to your request, we have authorized

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access for you or your representative to materials in those Libraries on Cuba and the Dominican Republic for the 1959-64 period which pertain in any way to domestic intelligence activities by the CIA or to assassination.

I trust that the material we have provided from the NSC files and the access to material in the Presidential Libraries for which we have arranged will provide you with the resources necessary to complete the important work of the Commission.

Sincerely,

Jeanne W. Davis
Staff Secretary

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